

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2011- \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RESPONDENTS IN RANKED ORDER (ATTACHMENT A) FOR THE DISPERSED WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM NORTHERN EVERGLADES – PAYMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SOLICITATION FOR 10 YEAR CONTRACTS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE WATER RETENTION OR NUTRIENT RETENTION SERVICES WITH FUNDING TO BE DISBURSED IN INCREMENTS FOLLOWING DESIGN, PERMITTING, AND CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE PAYMENTS COMMENCING ANNUALLY FOLLOWING CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATION OVER THE REMAINING TERM OF THE 10 YEAR CONTRACT SUBJECT TO FUTURE BUDGET APPROVALS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2012 THROUGH 2022; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake Okeechobee is listed under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR, Part 130) as a Florida impaired water body. In 2000, the Florida Legislature enacted the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act;

**WHEREAS**, In October 2005, then Governor Jeb Bush announced the Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery Plan from which the District initiated a search for interested private partners to store water on their lands. As part of the Northern Everglades Protection program, “The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Project Phase II Technical Plan” (P2TP) was submitted to the Florida legislature in February 2008 whereas River Watershed Protection Plans for the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River Watersheds were submitted to the Florida Legislature on January 1, 2009. All three Plans include efforts which have the goal of reducing the volume of excess water and amount of nutrients to Lake Okeechobee and the Estuaries. The P2TP recommended that feasibility studies be conducted for the Northern Everglades sub-watersheds to quantify restoration goals and identify projects to meet those goals;

**WHEREAS**, Lake Okeechobee restoration planning efforts (initiated over 10 years ago) have included searching for potential private partners to implement cost-effective water resource projects to meet program restoration goals. The project will support the Dispersed Water Management program listed in the District’s Annual Work Plan which is linked to the 10-Year Strategic Plan and is the most efficient utilization of resources to achieve program goals;

**WHEREAS**, Working with private landowners results in cost savings to the public. The approval of the Governing Board to enter into negotiations the respondents to the Northern Everglades – Payment for Environmental Services is one of the most efficient approaches to achieve the Northern Everglades water quality improvement and water storage/retention goals, which is critical to the health of the watersheds; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby approves entering into negotiations with respondents in ranked order according to the evaluation for the referenced solicitation 6000000418.

**Section 2.** This resolution shall take effect immediately, or if applicable, after review by the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Regulatory Reform.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14th day of July, 2011.

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT, BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD

By:

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Chair Person

ATTEST:

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Secretary

Approved as to form:

By:

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Office of Counsel